

biological samples comprising:

measuring the expression of said gene and simultaneously measuring the expression of at least ten maintenance genes selected from the group consisting of:

Profilin, Thymosin beta-4 mRNA, Prothymosin alpha mRNA (ProT-alpha), Actin depolymerizing factor, Adducin gamma subunit, Myosin regulatory light chain, Non-muscle type cofilin, Myeloid cell differentiation protein (MCL1), ATP synthase subunit c encoded by P1, ATP synthase alpha subunit, Vacuolar ATP synthase subunit AC45 precursor, ATP synthase gamma-subunit (L-type), ATP synthase beta subunit, Mitochondrial ATPase coupling factor 6 subunit (ATP5A), NaK-ATPase beta-1 subunit, Sodium/potassium-transporting ATPase beta-3 subunit, H+-ATP synthase subunit b, ATP-citrate lyase, Vacuolar-type H(+) -ATPase 115 kDa subunit, AQP3 aquaporine 3 (water channel), and Voltage-dependent anion channel isoform 1 (VDAC);

and comparing said expression of said gene in said plurality of samples with the expression of said at least ten maintenance genes.

#### REMARKS

Claims 10 and 11 are cancelled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the cancelled Claims in a related application. Claim 13 has been amended. Support for the amendment may be found on, e.g., page 4 of the specification (lines 17-21). These amendments do not present new matter.

#### **A. Objection to the Specification**

Claims 10-13 are objected to allegedly because Claim 13 includes a Markush group of names of “maintenance genes” that lacks proper punctuation. Applicants have amended Claim 13 to separate the gene/protein names by commas. Therefore, this objection to the specification is obviated.